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# Construction of an atomic decomposition for functions with compact support

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## Abstract

Chang, Krantz and Stein [D.-C. Chang, S.G. Krantz, E.M. Stein,  $H^p$  theory on a smooth domain in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and elliptic boundary value problems, J. Funct. Anal. 114 (1993) 286–347] proved that if  $f \in H^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and  $f$  vanishes outside  $\overline{\Omega}$ , then  $f$  has an atomic decomposition whose atoms are contained in  $\Omega$ . The purpose of this paper is to give another proof for the case  $n/(n+1) < p \leq 1$  and  $\Omega$  a cube. Our argument provides a simple, direct construction of the desired atomic decomposition, and it works in a class of function spaces more general than the usual Hardy spaces.

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**Keywords:** Hardy space; Atomic decomposition; Compact support

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## 1. Introduction

Suppose  $f \in H^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and  $f$  vanishes outside  $\overline{\Omega}$ . Then does  $f$  have an atomic decomposition whose atoms are contained in  $\Omega$ ? In [1, Theorem 3.3] Chang, Krantz, and Stein used an argument based on the square function to prove that the answer is “yes” for a special Lipschitz domain.

The purpose of this paper is to give a more direct proof for the case  $n/(n+1) < p \leq 1$  and  $\Omega$  a cube. Our argument works more generally for the spaces  $H_U^{\Phi, q}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , which we define in Section 2. We state our result (Theorem 3) at the end of Section 2. Section 3 is for the preliminaries. We prove our result in Section 4. For the background of the basic idea, see also [3,5].

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## 2. Definition of $H_U^{\Phi,q}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ and main results

A function  $\theta : (0, +\infty) \rightarrow (0, +\infty)$  is said to be almost increasing (almost decreasing) if there exists a constant  $C > 0$  such that

$$\theta(r) \leq C\theta(s) \quad (\theta(r) \geq C\theta(s)) \quad \text{for } r \leq s.$$

A function  $\theta : (0, +\infty) \rightarrow (0, +\infty)$  is said to satisfy the doubling condition if there exists a constant  $C > 0$  such that

$$C^{-1} \leq \frac{\theta(r)}{\theta(s)} \leq C \quad \text{for } \frac{1}{2} \leq \frac{r}{s} \leq 2.$$

Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be the set of all continuous, increasing and bijective functions  $\Phi : [0, +\infty) \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$ . Then  $\Phi(0) = 0$  and  $\lim_{r \rightarrow +\infty} \Phi(r) = +\infty$  for  $\Phi \in \mathcal{F}$ . Let  $\mathcal{D}'$  be the space of distributions on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

**Definition 1.** Let  $\Phi \in \mathcal{F}$ ,  $1 < q \leq \infty$  and  $r^{1/q}\Phi^{-1}(1/r)$  be almost decreasing. A function  $a$  on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is called a  $(\Phi, q)$ -atom if there exists a cube  $Q$  with sides parallel to the axes such that

$$\begin{cases} \text{(i)} & \text{supp } a \subset \overline{Q}, \\ \text{(ii)} & \|a\|_q \leq |Q|^{1/q} \Phi^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{|Q|}\right), \\ \text{(iii)} & \int a(x) dx = 0, \end{cases}$$

where  $\|a\|_q$  is the  $L^q$  norm of  $a$ ,  $\overline{Q}$  is the closure of  $Q$  and  $|Q|$  is the Lebesgue measure of  $Q$ . We denote by  $A(\Phi, q)$  the set of all  $(\Phi, q)$ -atoms.

**Definition 2.** Let  $\Phi \in \mathcal{F}$ ,  $1 < q \leq \infty$ , and let  $r^{1/q}\Phi^{-1}(1/r)$  be almost decreasing,  $U \in \mathcal{F}$  and  $U$  be concave. We define the space  $H_U^{\Phi,q}(\mathbb{R}^n) \subset \mathcal{D}'$  as follows:

$f \in H_U^{\Phi,q}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  if and only if there exist sequences  $\{a_j\} \subset A(\Phi, q)$  and positive numbers  $\{\lambda_j\}$  such that

$$f = \sum_j \lambda_j a_j \quad \text{in } \mathcal{D}' \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_j U(\lambda_j) < +\infty. \quad (1)$$

In general, the expression (1) is not unique. We define

$$\|f\|_{H_U^{\Phi,q}} = \inf \left\{ U^{-1} \left( \sum_j U(\lambda_j) \right) : f = \sum_j \lambda_j a_j \text{ in } \mathcal{D}' \right\},$$

where the infimum is taken over all expressions (1).

$H_U^{\Phi,q}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  is a linear space. Let  $d(f, g) = U(\|f - g\|_{H_U^{\Phi,q}})$  for  $f, g \in H_U^{\Phi,q}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . Then  $d(f, g)$  is a metric and  $H_U^{\Phi,q}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  is complete with respect to this metric. Let  $I(r) = r$ . Then  $\|f\|_{H_I^{\Phi,q}}$  is a norm and  $H_I^{\Phi,q}$  is a Banach space. If  $\Phi(r) = U(r) = r^p$ ,  $n/(n+1) < p \leq 1$  and  $1 < q \leq \infty$ , then  $H_U^{\Phi,q}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  is the usual  $H^p(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . Let

$$L_{\text{comp}}^{q,0}(\mathbb{R}^n) = \left\{ f \in L_{\text{comp}}^q(\mathbb{R}^n) : \int f(x) dx = 0 \right\}.$$

Then  $L_{\text{comp}}^{q,0}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  is dense in  $H_U^{\Phi,q}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .

**Theorem 3.** Let  $\Phi$ ,  $q$  and  $U$  satisfy the assumptions of Definition 2. Let  $r\Phi^{-1}(1/r)$  be almost decreasing and  $r^{(n+1)/n}\Phi^{-1}(1/r)$  be almost increasing. If  $f \in L_{\text{comp}}^{q,0}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and  $\text{supp } f \subset \overline{Q}$  for some cube  $Q$ , then there exist sequences  $\{a_j\} \subset A(\Phi, q)$  and positive numbers  $\{\lambda_j\}$  such that

$$f = \sum_j \lambda_j a_j \quad \text{in } \mathfrak{D}', \quad \bigcup_j \text{supp } a_j \subset \overline{Q}, \quad \sum_j U(\lambda_j) \leq CU(\|f\|_{H_U^{\Phi,q}}),$$

where  $C > 0$  is dependent only on  $n$ ,  $\Phi$  and  $U$ .

### 3. Preliminaries

To prove Theorem 3, we define generalized Campanato spaces and state a lemma.

For  $z = (z^{(1)}, \dots, z^{(n)}) \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $r > 0$ , let

$$Q(z, r) = \{x = (x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(n)}) \in \mathbb{R}^n: |x^{(i)} - z^{(i)}| < r/2, i = 1, \dots, n\}.$$

We denote  $cQ = Q(z, cr)$  for  $Q = Q(z, r)$  and  $c > 0$ . For a measurable set  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ , we denote the characteristic function of  $\Omega$  by  $\chi_\Omega$ .

**Definition 4.** For  $1 \leq p < \infty$  and a function  $\phi : (0, +\infty) \rightarrow (0, +\infty)$  with the doubling condition, let

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{p,\phi}(\mathbb{R}^n) &= \{f \in L_{\text{loc}}^p(\mathbb{R}^n): \|f\|_{\mathcal{L}_{p,\phi}} < +\infty\}, \\ \|f\|_{\mathcal{L}_{p,\phi}} &= \sup_{Q=Q(z,r)} \frac{1}{\phi(r)} \left( \frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q |f(x) - f_Q|^p dx \right)^{1/p}, \\ \text{where } f_Q &= \frac{1}{|Q|} \int_Q f(x) dx. \end{aligned}$$

If  $\phi(r) = r^{(\lambda-n)/p}$  ( $0 \leq \lambda \leq n+1$ ), then  $\mathcal{L}_{p,\phi}(\mathbb{R}^n) = \mathcal{L}^{p,\lambda}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  which is the classical Campanato space. If  $\phi$  is almost increasing, then  $\mathcal{L}_{p,\phi}(\mathbb{R}^n) = \mathcal{L}_{1,\phi}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  for all  $p > 1$ . We denote  $\mathcal{L}_{1,\phi}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  by  $\text{BMO}_\phi(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . If  $\phi \equiv 1$ , then  $\text{BMO}_\phi(\mathbb{R}^n) = \text{BMO}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . If  $\phi(r) = r^\alpha$ ,  $0 < \alpha \leq 1$ , then it is known that  $\text{BMO}_\phi(\mathbb{R}^n) = \text{Lip}_\alpha(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .

The following lemma can be proved by the method in [2, pp. 295–296].

**Lemma 5.** Let  $\Phi$ ,  $q$  and  $U$  satisfy the assumptions of Theorem 3. Let  $\phi(r) = 1/(r^n \Phi^{-1}(1/r^n))$  and  $1/q + 1/q' = 1$ . If  $f \in L_{\text{comp}}^{q,0}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and  $f = \sum_j \lambda_j a_j$  is any atomic decomposition in  $H_U^{\Phi,q}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , then

$$\int f \varphi = \sum_j \lambda_j \int a_j \varphi \quad \text{for } \varphi \in L_{\text{comp}}^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n) \cap \mathcal{L}_{q',\phi}(\mathbb{R}^n).$$

**Remark 6.** Under the assumptions of the lemma,  $\phi$  is almost increasing and  $\phi(r)/r$  is almost decreasing. Assume that

$$\sup_{0 < s < 1} \frac{U(rs)}{U(s)} \rightarrow 0 \quad (r \rightarrow 0).$$

Then we can show that the dual of  $H_U^{\Phi,q}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  is  $\text{BMO}_\phi(\mathbb{R}^n)$  [4].

**Remark 7.** If  $\varphi$  is Lipschitz continuous and has a compact support, then  $\varphi \in L_{\text{comp}}^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^n) \cap \mathcal{L}_{q',\phi}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .

#### 4. Proof of the main theorem

Let  $\phi(r) = 1/(r^n \Phi^{-1}(1/r^n))$ . Let  $f \in L_{\text{comp}}^{q,0}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and  $\text{supp } f \subset \overline{Q}$ . We may assume that the center of the cube  $Q$  is the origin and that the sides are parallel to the axes. Let

$$Q = Q^0 = Q(0, R).$$

Since  $L_{\text{comp}}^{q,0}(\mathbb{R}^n) \subset H_U^{\Phi,q}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ,  $f$  has an atomic decomposition in  $H_U^{\Phi,q}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ :

$$f = \sum_j \lambda_j b_j \quad \text{in } \mathfrak{D}' \quad (2)$$

with

$$\text{supp } b_j \subset \overline{Q_j}, \quad Q_j = Q(z_j, r_j), \quad \int b_j = 0, \quad \|b_j\|_q \leq |Q_j|^{1/q} \Phi^{-1}(1/|Q_j|). \quad (3)$$

We make a new atom  $a_j$  from  $b_j$  and construct another decomposition for  $f$ :

$$f = \sum_j \lambda_j a_j \quad \text{in } \mathfrak{D}' \quad (4)$$

with

$$\text{supp } a_j \subset \overline{Q^0}, \quad \int a_j(x) dx = 0, \quad (5)$$

and

$$\text{supp } a_j \subset \overline{Q'_j}, \quad \|a_j\|_q \leq C |Q'_j|^{1/q} \Phi^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{|Q'_j|}\right), \quad (6)$$

where the constant  $C > 0$  is dependent only on  $n$  and  $\phi$ .

For  $v = (v^{(1)}, \dots, v^{(n)}) \in \mathbb{Z}^n$ , we define  $\omega^v : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  as follows:

$$\omega^v(x) = \omega^v(x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(n)}) = ((-1)^{v^{(1)}} x^{(1)} + Rv^{(1)}, \dots, (-1)^{v^{(n)}} x^{(n)} + Rv^{(n)}).$$

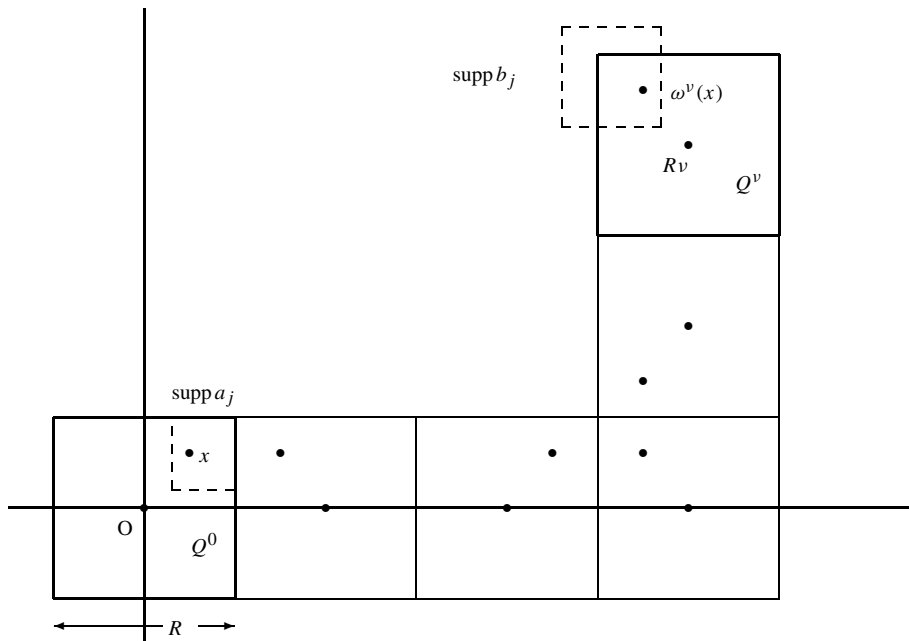
Let  $Q^v = Q(Rv, R)$  and  $\chi^v = \chi_{Q^v}$ . Then  $\omega^v(Q^0) = Q^v$ . For the atomic decomposition (2) and (3), we make  $a_j$  from  $b_j$  as follows:

$$a_j = \sum_{v \in \mathbb{Z}^n} b_j^v, \quad b_j^v = (b_j \chi^v) \circ \omega^v \quad (\text{see Fig. 1}).$$

Since every  $b_j$  has a compact support,

$$\mathcal{N}_j = \{v \in \mathbb{Z}^n : \text{supp } b_j \cap Q^v \neq \emptyset\}$$

is a finite set and  $b_j^v \equiv 0$  for  $v \notin \mathcal{N}_j$ . It follows that  $\text{supp } b_j^v \subset \overline{Q^0}$  and  $\int a_j = \int b_j$ . Then we have (5). In the following we prove (6) and (4).

Fig. 1.  $Q^0$ ,  $Q^v$  and  $\omega^v$ .

*Proof of (6).* We use the almost decreasingness of  $r\Phi^{-1}(1/r)$  and  $r^{1/q}\Phi^{-1}(1/r)$ .

If  $r_j \leq R$ , then  $\mathcal{N}_j$  consists of  $2^n$  elements at most and there exists a cube  $Q'_j = Q(z'_j, r'_j)$  such that

$$\text{supp } a_j \subset \overline{Q'_j} \subset \overline{Q^0} \quad \text{with } r_j/2 \leq r'_j \leq r_j.$$

Hence we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|a_j\|_q &\leq \sum_{v \in \mathcal{N}_j} \|b_j^v\|_q \leq 2^{n(1-1/q)} \|b_j\|_q \\ &\leq 2^{n(1-1/q)} |Q_j|^{1/q} \Phi^{-1}(1/|Q_j|) \leq C |Q'_j|^{1/q} \Phi^{-1}(1/|Q'_j|). \end{aligned}$$

If  $r_j > R$ , then  $\mathcal{N}_j$  consists of  $([r_j/R] + 2)^n$  elements at most, where the notation  $[s]$  represents the greatest integer less than or equal to the real number  $s$ , and  $([r_j/R] + 2)^n$  is comparable to  $|Q_j|/|Q^0|$ . Hence we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|a_j\|_q &\leq \sum_{v \in \mathcal{N}_j} \|b_j^v\|_q \leq ([r_j/R] + 2)^{n(1-1/q)} \|b_j\|_q \\ &\leq C \left( \frac{|Q_j|}{|Q^0|} \right)^{1-1/q} |Q_j|^{1/q} \Phi^{-1}(1/|Q_j|) \\ &= C |Q^0|^{1/q} \Phi^{-1}(1/|Q^0|) \frac{|Q_j| \Phi^{-1}(1/|Q_j|)}{|Q^0| \Phi^{-1}(1/|Q^0|)} \leq C |Q^0|^{1/q} \Phi^{-1}(1/|Q^0|). \end{aligned}$$

*Proof of (4).* We show that

$$\int f \varphi = \sum \lambda_j \int a_j \varphi \quad \text{for all } \varphi \in C_{\text{comp}}^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^n).$$

Let  $\varphi = \varphi_1 + \varphi_2$ ,  $\varphi_1, \varphi_2 \in C_{\text{comp}}^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ,  $\varphi = \varphi_1$  on  $Q^0$ ,  $\text{supp } \varphi_1 \subset 2Q^0 = Q(0, 2R)$  and  $\text{supp } \varphi_2 \cap Q^0 = \emptyset$ . Then

$$\int f \varphi_2 = \sum_j \lambda_j \int a_j \varphi_2 = 0.$$

So we may assume that  $\text{supp } \varphi \subset 2Q^0$ . Let

$$\varphi^{-\nu} = (\varphi \chi^0) \circ (\omega^{\nu})^{-1}, \quad \chi^0 = \chi_{Q^0},$$

where  $(\omega^{\nu})^{-1}$  is the inverse function of  $\omega^{\nu}$ . Then  $\text{supp } \varphi^{-\nu} \subset \overline{Q^{\nu}}$  and

$$\begin{aligned} \int b_j^{\nu} \varphi &= \int b_j^{\nu} (\varphi \chi^0) = \int (b_j^{\nu} \circ (\omega^{\nu})^{-1}) ((\varphi \chi^0) \circ (\omega^{\nu})^{-1}) \\ &= \int (b_j \chi^{\nu}) \varphi^{-\nu} = \int b_j \varphi^{-\nu}. \end{aligned}$$

We note that  $\sum_{\nu \in \mathbb{Z}^n} \varphi^{-\nu}$  is Lipschitz continuous.

Let  $A \geq 1$  with  $\phi(s) \leq A\phi(r)$  and  $\phi(r)/r \leq A\phi(s)/s$  for  $r \geq s$ . For all  $\epsilon > 0$  there exist  $j_0, K \in \mathbb{N}$  such that

$$\sum_{j > j_0} \lambda_j < \epsilon / C_{\varphi, R}, \quad \bigcup_{j \leq j_0} \text{supp } b_j \subset \bigcup_{j \leq j_0} \bigcup_{\nu \in \mathcal{N}_j} Q^{\nu} \subset KQ^0 = Q(0, KR),$$

where

$$C_{\varphi, R} = 2^n (2nA \|\varphi\|_{\infty} / \phi(R) + \|\varphi\|_{\mathcal{L}_{q', \phi}}).$$

Let  $\theta \in C_{\text{comp}}^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and

$$0 \leq \theta(x) \leq 1, \quad |\partial_i \theta(x)| \leq 2/R \quad (i = 1, \dots, n), \quad \theta(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & x \in KQ^0, \\ 0, & x \notin (K+1)Q^0, \end{cases}$$

and let

$$\psi = \theta \left( \sum_{\nu \in \mathbb{Z}^n} \varphi^{-\nu} \right) - \varphi, \quad \psi_* = (1 - \theta) \left( \sum_{\nu \in \mathbb{Z}^n} \varphi^{-\nu} \right).$$

Then  $\psi$  is Lipschitz continuous and  $\text{supp } \psi \subset \overline{(K+1)Q^0 \setminus Q^0}$ . By Lemma 5 and Remark 7 we have

$$\sum_j \lambda_j \int b_j \varphi = \int f \varphi, \quad \sum_j \lambda_j \int b_j \psi = \int f \psi = 0. \quad (7)$$

If  $j \leq j_0$ , then  $\psi_* \equiv 0$  on  $\bigcup_{\nu \in \mathcal{N}_j} Q^{\nu}$ . If  $j > j_0$ , then there exists a constant  $c_j$  such that

$$\|\psi_* - c_j\|_{L^{q'}(Q_j)} \leq C_{\varphi, R} |Q_j|^{1/q'} \phi(r_j). \quad (8)$$

Actually, if  $r_j > R$ , then

$$\|\psi_*\|_{L^{q'}(Q_j)} \leq |Q_j|^{1/q'} \|\varphi\|_{\infty} \leq A |Q_j|^{1/q'} \|\varphi\|_{\infty} \phi(r_j) / \phi(R) \leq C_{\varphi, R} |Q_j|^{1/q'} \phi(r_j).$$

If  $r_j \leq R$ , then  $\mathcal{N}_j$  consists of  $2^n$  elements at most and  $\psi_* = (1 - \theta)\varphi^{-v}$  on  $Q^v$ . For all  $v \in \mathcal{N}_j$ , there exists a cube  $Q_j^v = Q(z_j^v, r_j)$  such that

$$Q_j \cap Q^v \subset Q_j^v \subset Q^v.$$

In this case we have

$$\int_{Q_j^v} \varphi^{-v} = \int_{Q_j^{v'}} \varphi^{-v'} \quad \text{for } v, v' \in \mathcal{N}_j.$$

Let

$$c_j = (1 - \theta(z_j)) \frac{1}{|Q_j|} \int_{Q_j^v} \varphi^{-v} = (1 - \theta(z_j)) (\varphi^{-v})_{Q_j^v} \quad \text{for } v \in \mathcal{N}_j.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} & \|\psi_* - c_j\|_{L^{q'}(Q_j)} \\ & \leq \sum_{v \in \mathcal{N}_j} \|(1 - \theta)\varphi^{-v} - c_j\|_{L^{q'}(Q_j^v)} \\ & \leq \sum_{v \in \mathcal{N}_j} (\|(1 - \theta)\varphi^{-v} - (1 - \theta(z_j))\varphi^{-v}\|_{L^{q'}(Q_j^v)} + \|(1 - \theta(z_j))\varphi^{-v} - c_j\|_{L^{q'}(Q_j^v)}) \\ & \leq \sum_{v \in \mathcal{N}_j} \left( \sup_{x \in Q_j^v} |\theta(x) - \theta(z_j)| \|\varphi^{-v}\|_{L^{q'}(Q_j^v)} + \|\varphi^{-v} - (\varphi^{-v})_{Q_j^v}\|_{L^{q'}(Q_j^v)} \right) \\ & \leq 2^n (n(2/R)r_j |Q_j|^{1/q'} \|\varphi\|_\infty + |Q_j|^{1/q'} \phi(r_j) \|\varphi\|_{\mathcal{L}_{q', \phi}}) \\ & \leq 2^n |Q_j|^{1/q'} \phi(r_j) (2nA \|\varphi\|_\infty / \phi(R) + \|\varphi\|_{\mathcal{L}_{q', \phi}}) = C_{\varphi, R} |Q_j|^{1/q'} \phi(r_j). \end{aligned}$$

By (8) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \int b_j \psi_* \right| &= \left| \int b_j (\psi_* - c_j) \right| \leq \|b_j\|_q \|\psi_* - c_j\|_{L^{q'}(Q_j)} \\ &\leq |Q_j|^{1/q} \Phi^{-1} \left( \frac{1}{|Q_j|} \right) C_{\varphi, R} |Q_j|^{1/q'} \phi(r_j) = C_{\varphi, R} \quad \text{for } j > j_0. \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

We note that

$$\sum_{v \in \mathcal{N}_j} \varphi^{-v} = \begin{cases} \varphi + \psi, & j \leq j_0, \\ \varphi + \psi + \psi_*, & j > j_0, \end{cases} \quad \text{on } \text{supp } b_j.$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_j \lambda_j \int a_j \varphi \\ &= \sum_j \lambda_j \int \sum_{v \in \mathcal{N}_j} b_j^v \varphi = \sum_j \lambda_j \sum_{v \in \mathcal{N}_j} \int b_j^v \varphi = \sum_j \lambda_j \sum_{v \in \mathcal{N}_j} \int b_j \varphi^{-v} \\ &= \sum_j \lambda_j \int b_j \sum_{v \in \mathcal{N}_j} \varphi^{-v} = \sum_{j \leq j_0} \lambda_j \int b_j (\varphi + \psi) + \sum_{j > j_0} \lambda_j \int b_j (\varphi + \psi + \psi_*) \end{aligned}$$

$$= \sum_j \lambda_j \int b_j \varphi + \sum_j \lambda_j \int b_j \psi + \sum_{j>j_0} \lambda_j \int b_j \psi_*.$$

Using (7) and (9), we have

$$\left| \int f \varphi - \sum_j \lambda_j \int a_j \varphi \right| = \left| \sum_{j>j_0} \lambda_j \int b_j \psi_* \right| < \epsilon.$$

Therefore we have (4).

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